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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Putin: Sanctions on Turkish Cyprus Must be Lifted - Milliyet  
Turkey, Russia Target 25 Billion USD Trade - Sabah  
World Denounces Kusadasi Bombings - Hurriyet  
Germany Warns Zana to Take Position Against Terror -  
Milliyet  
Austria Proposes Postponing EU Talks With Turkey - Vatan  
7/7 Cost UK 2 Billion Pounds - Hurriyet  
American 'Hawks' Threaten to Bomb Islam's Holy Places -  
Sabah  
Jafari Extends Iran Visit - Milliyet  
'Atlanta Bomber' Gets Life Sentence - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Putin Vows to Take Concrete Steps for Cyprus - Zaman  
France, Belgium, Spain, US Support Turkey On Kusadasi  
Bombing - Radikal  
Dan Fried: PKK a Concern for US - Yeni Safak  
Tancredo: Islam's Holy Places May be Targeted - Cumhuriyet  
'Odd' Reaction from US Lawmaker: US May Strike Kaaba - Zaman  
Straw: We Are Grateful to Turkey for Fight Against Terror -  
Yeni Safak  
US Threatens to Bomb Kaaba - Yeni Safak  
US, Taliban Secretly Agree to Swap Prisoners - Yeni Safak  
500 UK Muslim Clerics, Academics Denounce Terror - Yeni  
Safak  
London Questions its Alliance With US - Cumhuriyet  
Reports Shake Blair: Iraq War Made UK a Terror Target -  
Radikal  
World Bank to Give Iraq 500 Million USD - Radikal

BRIEFING

Putin-Erdogan Meeting: Russian President Vladimir Putin and  
Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan told the press after meeting  
over breakfast at Putin's summer house in Sochi yesterday  
that they had had a very fruitful discussion. Putin said  
the two country's common goal was to increase bilateral  
trade to 25 billion USD in the coming years. Turkish  
businesses have invested 1.5 billion USD in Russia, Putin  
said, adding that Russian companies are also interested in  
making investments in Turkey. The Moscow-based "NTV Mir"  
reported that Putin said that one Russian company, the Alfa  
Group, intends to invest over 3 billion USD in the Turkish  
telecommunications sector. Putin said that the capacity of  
the Blue Stream natural gas pipeline between the two  
countries should be increased to 16 billion cubic meters  
annually. He added that he had discussed with Erdogan ways  
for building new pipelines to carry Russian natural gas to a  
variety of destinations. But Putin reportedly rejected  
Turkish requests to reduce the price of Russian natural gas.  
Putin also said that Russia will continue supporting the  
initiatives of UN Secretary General Annan on the Cyprus  
issue. 'International sanctions implemented against a part  
of the island don't make sense, and they should be removed,'  
Putin stressed. Erdogan said that he shared 'identical'  
views with Putin with regard to regional welfare and  
stability, and global peace. Both Turkey and Russia support  
a joint struggle against terrorism, Erdogan said. The  
Turkish PM also said that Putin shares his view that a  
solution must be found for the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.  
Following his joint press conference with Putin, Erdogan  
continued on to Mongolia for an official visit.  
Iraq's al-Zubaydi on PKK, Border Security, Extradition of  
Terrorists: Iraqi Interior Minister al-Zubaydi told the all-  
news channel NTV that a cross-border Turkish incursion into  
Iraq must be contingent on permission from the Iraqi  
government. 'There is an elected government and a  
parliament in Iraq. The Iraqi Parliament would have to  
decide about a Turkish cross-border operation,' al-Zubaydi  
said. He added that the Iraqi government has been  
discussing the PKK issue with Turkish and US officials, but

said that the Iraqi Kurds should also join these meetings. 'The Kurdish peshmerge are in control of Iraq's border with Turkey,' al-Zubaydi noted, adding that the central government in Baghdad 'does not have sufficient forces to deploy in the region for border security.' Asked about reports that Sadettin Akdas and Burhan Kus, al-Qaida-related Turkish terrorists suspected in the Istanbul bombings in November 2003, had been captured and are being held in Iraq, al-Zubayri said he had 'no information' on the issue. He stated that the Turkish government's request to have the suspected terrorists extradited has not yet reached Baghdad. Al-Zubaydi also said that Iraq will ask for Turkey's help in training Iraqi police.

Interior Ministers of Turkey, Iraq, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Syria, Iran, and Jordan are attending the ministerial-level meetings in Istanbul to discuss the security situation in and around Iraq. Turkish papers report that the Iraqi interior minister criticized Syria's failure to take serious steps to stop the infiltration of terrorists into Iraq from Syrian territory. 'We have given Damascus the names of terrorists who have sought and found shelter in Syria. The Syrians denied that they were on their territory. But we are 100 percent sure that these terrorists are there. I have their addresses and pictures,' he said. Syria expressed 'deep regret' over the Iraqi interior minister's statement. A Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Damascus had increased the number of observation posts and deployed a large number of troops along the border with Iraq, and called on diplomatic missions and media outlets to visit the border to check on the Syrian security measures. Iranian Interior Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi-Lari said that there are 'no PKK camps in Iran,' and added that Tehran opposed the PKK as well as a Kurdish federation in northern Iraq.

Assistant Secretary Fried on the PKK: Turkish papers report that US Assistant Secretary Dan Fried told a conference at the Washington Institute that a Turkish cross-border incursion against PKK militants nestled in northern Iraq may cause 'undesired consequences.' 'I understand Turkey's anger and disappointment in the face of PKK attacks,' Fried said. 'However, hot pursuit and the subsequent military tension that it would cause would not be the best option. We must act together in making Iraq a successful state, and then remove the terrorist presence from its territory,' Fried noted.

McEldowney: We Regard al-Qaeda and the PKK as the Same: US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney hosted a group of Turkish exchange students at the embassy on Monday, "Yeni Safak" reports. McEldowney issued a message of cooperation in the fight against terrorism. 'Whether the group calls itself al-Qaeda or PKK/Kongra Gel, Turkey and America are united in the knowledge that they are terrorist groups. Whether the bomb explodes in Cesme or Washington, in Kusadasy or New York, Turkey and America are united in the struggle to stop the violence,' McEldowney said.

EU, US Condemn Bomb Attacks in Turkish Resort: Jonathan Todd, a European Commission spokesman, said that the EU condemned the bomb attack in Turkey's Aegean resort of Kusadasi last Saturday. Todd offered condolences to the families of victims, including EU citizens, and condemned terrorist attacks targeting innocent people. "Radikal" reports that the United States also condemned the 'vicious terrorist bombing' that killed five people and wounded thirteen in Kusadasi. 'We express our profound condolences to the victims and their families. Senseless attacks such as this only reinforce our determination to combat terrorism wherever it appears, and no matter who is responsible. We stand together with our ally, Turkey, in our common fight against terrorism,' the US State Department Spokesman said.

Charge McEldowney Meets With Turkish Cypriot Representative: US Charge d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney met with Turkish Cypriot 'Ambassador' Temel Gazioglu in his private capacity for lunch at her residence yesterday, several papers report. McEldowney and Gazioglu discussed the need to reenergize talks for a solution to the Cyprus issue. They also discussed steps the United States has taken to alleviate the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. Gazioglu stressed the importance of the issue of direct flights to northern Cyprus. McEldowney said that 'we are looking into what we might be able to do, but on that issue there are some international and legal obstacles.' McEldowney highlighted the fact that USAID recently announced the disbursement of 10 million USD in assistance to improve the business climate and the banking sector in northern Cyprus.

Tancredo: If Attacked, the US May Strike Islam's Holy Places: Turkish papers report that US congressman Tom Tancredo (R-FL) told a local radio station last Friday that if the United States faces a terrorist nuclear attack from a radical Islamic group, then it may retaliate by carrying out a military strike against Islam's holy places. Asked

whether he meant a possible bombing of Mecca, Tancredo reportedly replied 'yes.' Tancredo later tried to clarify his remarks, saying he meant to that gravest threat should be answered in the strongest possible way.

**Poll: Majority of Europeans Oppose Turkey's EU Bid:** According to a poll by "Eurobarometer," 52 percent of European nationals oppose Turkey's membership with the EU, while only 35 percent approve it. A similar poll by the same organization in 2002 showed only 32 percent support for Turkey's EU membership. The most negative country on this issue was Austria, where 80 percent of respondents oppose Turkey in the EU. Germany was next, with 74 percent opposed. Italy was the only EU country in which a majority (52 percent) of respondents supported Turkey's membership in the Union.

**EU Warns Turkey on Non-Muslim Minorities:** The European Commission urged in a letter to Ankara that concrete steps be taken to ensure religious freedom for non-Muslim minorities before Turkey starts accession talks in October, "Radikal" reports. The Commission warned that Turkey has not made the necessary improvements regarding the religious freedom of non-Muslim minorities, and that the draft on minority foundations has not brought a solution to the problems faced by the minorities.

**Ocalan Blocks Declaration Condemning Killing of HADEP Member:** "Milliyet" reports that Kurdish activist Leyla Zana and her former Kurdish lawmaker colleagues were preparing to release a declaration condemning the killing of former HADEP deputy chairman Hikmet Fidan, but that the declaration was blocked by imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. Several columnists called for a thorough investigation of Fidan's killing, and speculated that support for the separatist organization would decline significantly if a PKK role in the assassination is revealed. "Cumhuriyet" suspects the PKK might have killed many prominent Kurds in Turkey in the past, including Musa Anter, Nurettin Aydyn, Mustafa Gunaydyn, Dr. Rodi Demirkapi, and Salah Nuri.

**Osman Ocalan to Establish Political Party in Turkey:** Osman Ocalan, brother of imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, has written a letter to northern Iraqi Kurdish leaders Talabani and Barzani asking for increased financial support for his 750 militants, "Zaman" reports. Ocalan claimed that he could convince PKK militants in the mountains to lay down their weapons. Ocalan said he would establish a political party and publish a weekly newspaper in Turkey, and asked Talabani and Barzani for 100,000 USD in monthly financial support, according to "Zaman."

**Several Delegations to Participate in July 20 Ceremonies in North Cyprus:** The Turkish Cypriot "BRT-1 TV" reported on Monday that the 'TRNC' will host guests from Turkey, the Central Asian republics, and some European countries on the 31st anniversary of Turkey's intervention in Cyprus on July 20, 1974. Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul is expected to lead the Turkish delegation to the 'TRNC' tomorrow. Delegations from Azerbaijan, Denmark, Belgium, Macedonia, Georgia, Yemen, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Palestine are to participate in the ceremonies, according to BRT.

**Turkey's First Kurdish Course Closed:** Turkey's first Kurdish language course, which drew criticism because of suspicions that it could encourage separatism, has been closed due to a lack of students and financial difficulties, papers report. The school was opened in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeastern province of Batman in April 2004 within the framework of EU harmonization laws. 30,000 people participated in the opening ceremony.

**Turkey Becomes Popular With Middle Eastern Tourists:** Turkey is becoming increasingly popular with Arab and Iranian tourists, papers report. Streamlined visa procedures at airports have boosted tourist arrivals from Middle Eastern countries by 50 percent, to 750,000 in the first six months.

**EDITORIAL OPINION: Israel; Iraq; Terrorism**

"Attention in Palestine and Israel"

Kenan Akin wrote in the nationalist "Ortadogu" (7/19): "Israel's expected operation in Palestine has a grave potential to again put the Middle East region in flames. International efforts should focus on controlling Hamas, but should also aim to prevent an Israeli attack in Palestine which could turn into a massacre. Sadly enough, there seems to be no sign of an effort in this direction on the part of the international community, including the United Nations. The Middle East cannot bear further massacres in the midst of the ongoing bloodshed in Iraq. The Arab world and Turkey should do their best to express concern over the planned attack by Israel. But past events proven that Israel has never paid attention to international concerns, and does not heed international pressure. It looks like the Middle East

is on the verge of a new era of bloodshed."

"The Importance of Northern Iraq"

Erdal Guven commented in the conservative "DB Tercuman" (7/19): "The evasive statements by the Iraqi Interior Minister indicate the difficulty for Turkey in trying to get permission for a cross-border operation against the PKK. But it is impossible for Turkey to eliminate terrorism without wiping out the terrorist camps in northern Iraq. Turkey used to take counter-measures in advance when the Turkish army controlled 70 kilometers along the Iraqi border. But this situation no longer exists. Iraq is doing nothing to stop PKK terrorism. Instead, the PKK is being given shelter and encouragement from the Barzani administration. Given the current situation, Turkey must start an operation in northern Iraq immediately. The Turkish military should position itself in northern Iraq so that the PKK's growing terrorism can be countered in a timely fashion."

"Calling it What It Is"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (7/19): "The international media, especially the European press, presents a confused picture when it comes to the use of the terms 'terrorist' and 'terrorism.' Interestingly, some British papers characterized the bombing in Turkey's Kusadasi as 'terrorism,' but refrained from using the word 'terrorist' to describe the bomber. There are several terms that the European papers generally prefer to use when referring a terrorist incident - there is 'militant,' 'attacker,' and 'guerrilla.' These terms are used especially when referring to the PKK. The list of terrorist organizations compiled by both the US and the EU includes the PKK. But why are PKK members not named as terrorists in the media? If we are characterizing the attack in the proper context, why are we not doing the same thing for the person who carried it out?"

MCELDOWNEY